The Invention Claimed is:

1   1.   A web data conferencing system comprising:

2   means for receiving a full-motion video signal from a remote location;

3   means for providing the full-motion video signal to a web conferencing
4   system; and

5   a first network interface for providing the full-motion video signal to a
6   plurality of web conference subscribers as a web conferencing signal.

1   2.   A web conferencing system according to claim 1, wherein the means
2   for providing the full motion video signal as the web conferencing signal includes a format
3   converter which converts the full-motion video signal into a format compatible with the
4   web conferencing system.

1   3.   A web conferencing system according to claim 1, wherein the means
2   for receiving the full-motion video signal from the remote location includes a plurality of
3   coder/decoders (codecs) and a video server, wherein the video server is configured to
4   combine video signals provided by the respective codecs to generate the full-motion video
5   signal.

1   4.   A web conferencing system according to claim 1, wherein the means
2   for receiving the full-motion video signal from the remote location includes a plurality of
3   codecs, a video/audio server and an audio server,

4   the video/audio server is configured to receive video and audio signals
5   provided by the respective codecs to generate a video portion of the full-motion video
6   signal, and

7   the audio server is configured to communicate with the video/audio server
8   for receiving the audio signals to generate an audio portion of the full-motion video signal.

1   5.   A web conferencing system according to claim 4, wherein the first

2 network interface is configured for compatibility with one of a global information network

3 and a private Internet protocol (IP) network, and

4   a second network interface provides the audio signals between the

5 video/audio server and the audio server, the second network interface is configured for

6 compatibility with one of a public switched telephone network (PSTN), IP network, and

7 voice-over-IP (VoIP) network.

1   6.   A web conferencing system according to claim 1, wherein the means,

2 for receiving the full-motion video signal from the remote location includes

3   a second network interface for receiving the full-motion video signal from

4 one of an integrated switched digital network (ISDN) network and an IP network, and

5   the second network interface is independent of the first network interface.

1   7.   A web conferencing system according to claim 1, wherein the means

2 for providing the full-motion video signal to the web conferencing system includes

3   a format converter coupled to one of the plurality of codecs for converting

4 the full-motion video signal into a digital signal compatible with the web conferencing

5 signal, and

6   the first network interface coupled to the format converter for receiving the

7 digital signal and providing the digital signal to the plurality of web conference subscribers.

1   8.   A web conferencing system according to claim 7, wherein the one of

2 the plurality of codecs converts the full-motion video signal into an analog signal having a

3 format of one of NTSC, PAL, SECAM, analog component video and S/Video.

1   9.   A web conferencing system according to claim 1 wherein the means

2 for receiving the full-motion video signal from the remote location includes a plurality of

3 coder/decoders (codecs) and a video server, wherein the video server is configured to

4   combine video signals provided by the respective codecs to generate the full-motion video

5   signal, and

6   the means for providing the full motion video signal to the web conferencing

7   system includes a format converter which converts the full-motion video signal into a

8   format compatible with the web conferencing signal.

1   10.   A web conferencing system according to claim 1 wherein the means

2   for receiving the full-motion video signal from the remote location includes

3   a codec for receiving the full-motion video signal from one of a video play-

4   back device and a video feed from a satellite receiver, the codec configured to decompress

5   the received full-motion video signal to produce an analog video signal, and

6   a format converter coupled to the codec for converting the analog video

7   signal into a format compatible with the web conferencing signal.

1   11.   A web data conferencing system comprising:

2   a video server for receiving a full-motion video signal from a remote

3   location; and

4   a processor coupled to the video server for converting the full-motion video

5   signal into a format compatible with the web conferencing signal;

6   wherein the processor is configured to communicate with a first network,

7   the video server is configured to communicate with a second network, and

8   the first network is independent of the second network.

1   12.   A web conferencing system according to claim 11 wherein

2 the full-motion video signal includes full-motion interactive images of a

3 plurality of participants communicating with each other over the second network, and

4 the processor is configured to transmit the converted full-motion video

5 signal to another plurality of participants communicating over the first network.

1 13. A web conferencing system according to claim 12 wherein

2 the video server provides a portion of the full-motion video signal as an

3 audio signal to the other plurality of participants by way of a third network, and

4 the third network is independent of the first and second networks.

1 14. A web conferencing system according to claim 11 including

2 a codec and a format converter serially connected to each other between

3 first and second ends,

4 the first end connected to the processor, and

5 the second end coupled to the video server by way of the second network,

6 wherein the codec converts the full-motion video signal into an analog

7 signal, and

8 the format converter converts the analog signal into a digital signal

9 compatible with the processor.

1 15. A web conferencing system according to claim 14 wherein

2 the codec is configured for video compatibility with one of H.261, H.263 and

3 H.264 protocols, and configured to decompress video using one of H.320, H.323, H.324,

4 MPEG-1.MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 protocols, and

5   the format converter is configured to provide the digital signal using one of

6   JPGL, VCF, QCF and PGB.

1   16.   A web conferencing method comprising the steps of:

2   (a)   receiving a full-motion video signal from a remote location;

3   (b)   converting the full-motion video signal into a format compatible with

4   a web conferencing system; and

5   (c)   transmitting the converted full-motion video signal to web conference

6   participants using a web conferencing signal.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 wherein

2   step (a) includes receiving full-motion interactive images of participants in a

3   video conference,

4   step (b) includes converting the received images into the format compatible

5   with the web conferencing system, and

6   step (c) includes transmitting the converted images to the web conference

7   participants, wherein the participants of the video conference are different from the web

8   conference participants.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 further including the steps of:

2   (d)   extracting a sound signal after receiving the full-motion interactive

3   images in step (a); and

4   (e)   transmitting the extracted sound signal to the web conference

5   participants using a first network independent of a second network for transmitting the

6   converted full-motion video signal to the web participants.

1 19. The method of claim 16 wherein

2 step (b) includes

3 (i) converting, by using a codec, the received images into a
4 decompressed video signal,

5 (ii) formatting, by using a format converter, the
6 decompressed video signal into the format compatible with the web
7 conferencing system.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein

2 step (b) of converting and formatting is performed in a unit located at one
3 location.

1 21. A web conferencing method comprising the steps of:

2 (a) connecting a multi-point video conferencing system with a web
3 conference system, wherein (i) the multi-point video conferencing system includes a
4 plurality of codecs communicating with a multi-point controller (MCP), and (ii) the web
5 conference system includes a plurality of terminals communicating with a web conference
6 server;

7 (b) transmitting a motion video signal to one of the codecs from the
8 MCP; and

9 (c) converting the motion video signal received by the one codec into a
10 format compatible with the web conference system; and

11 (d) transmitting the converted motion video signal to the web conference
12 system.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein

2   step (a) includes connecting the one of the codecs to one of the terminals of

3   the web conference system.

1   23.   The method of claim 22 wherein

2   step (a) further includes connecting a format converter between the one of

3   the codecs and the one of the terminals; and

4   step (c) includes converting the motion video signal into the format

5   compatible with the web conference system using the format converter.